

# Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Symposium Bulletin



## 2003

### *A Note from the Director*

Welcome to the *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS)* Bulletin highlighting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 4th Annual *IAQ TFS* National Symposium held October 26-28, 2003. We are excited about the positive responses we've received from the Symposium participants. We look forward to hearing about the progress participants make over this coming year using the information they learned at the Symposium. Each day, more and more schools are working to provide healthy indoor environments for their students and staff!

The *IAQ TFS* Symposium provides a great opportunity for school officials, health professionals, administrators, facilities managers, teachers, parents, and community representatives to network with each other and learn from national experts about effectively managing indoor air quality in our nation's schools. Since 2000, the Symposium has grown in size each year as more stakeholders realize the need for healthy schools and get involved.

Join us December 2-4, 2004, in Washington, DC, for the 5th Annual *IAQ TFS* National Symposium. We will offer several new topics of interest in addition to the traditional "favorites," such as managing asthma in schools and basics of mold in schools. We will also host the 5th Annual *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* Excellence Awards Ceremony to honor schools with exemplary indoor air quality programs and present them with the coveted *IAQ TFS* Excellence Award.

We look forward to seeing you in 2004!

Sincerely,

### Attendance Soars at EPA's Fourth Annual *IAQ TFS* National Symposium

School board officials, administrators, school nurses, teachers, facility managers and planners, architects, and health and education association members joined colleagues at the 4th Annual *IAQ TFS* Symposium in Washington, DC, to learn about the importance of maintaining healthy indoor air quality in our nation's school buildings. With more than 500 participants from 48 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Puerto Rico, EPA enjoyed the highest Symposium attendance rate yet. This is a clear sign that indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools is increasingly important and that real success can be achieved through voluntary IAQ programs.



During seminars, breakout sessions, lunch discussions, informal networking opportunities, and this year's special "Meet and Greet" event on Sunday, October 26, attendees and speakers shared information on a range of issues related to IAQ in schools. Industry experts presented on topics ranging from school security and facility design

to mold litigation and flooring choices. Attendees heard success stories from schools with strong track records of developing and implementing effective IAQ management plans, and they learned about innovative financing mechanisms for IAQ programs and renovations. Several new sessions and topics were offered during the 2003 Symposium.

The following are brief summaries of each **new** session offered at the 2003 Symposium:

(Click on the title to view the summary)

- [Facilities Planning: Where Education Meets Architecture](#)
- [Taking Tools for Schools Beyond IAQ](#)
- [School Planning and Design](#)
- [Health and Economic Benefits of \*IAQ Tools for Schools\*](#)
- [Using the Tools: Turning an \*IAQ TFS\* Kit into a Program](#)
- [Operations and Maintenance for Healthy, High Performance Schools](#)
- [IAQ TFS and the Community: How to Build Trust and Keep It](#)
- [School Security Post 9/11](#)
- [Flooring Choices: How To Pick Them and What it Takes to Keep Them Clean](#)
- [IAQ in Schools: Where the Buck Stops and Litigation Begins](#)
- [Managing a Mold Crisis](#)

**Back by popular demand, the 2003 Symposium featured these sessions as it had in past years.**

- [How Asthma-Friendly is Your School?](#)

Thomas E. Kelly  
Director, Indoor Environments  
Division, U.S. EPA

### 2003 IAQ TFS Award Winners

Through the *IAQ TFS* Awards Program, EPA recognizes schools and school districts for their IAQ programs, as well as individuals and organizations that have played an integral role in helping schools make



IAQ improvements. Excellence Awards are decided on a competitive basis.

Applicants are evaluated on the thoroughness of their applications, which include a description of IAQ achievements, communication efforts and materials developed, announcements posted in the community on the schools' participation in the *IAQ TFS* Program, and examples of local recognition (e.g., news articles in the local or state newspaper or coverage by the local TV station) received for their successes with the program and indoor air quality improvements.

One highlight of the Symposium was the awards ceremony. Special guest Stephen L. Johnson, Acting Deputy Administrator of EPA, was on hand to present Excellence and Special Achievement awards to 22 recipients in 15 states. These schools and community leaders were recognized in front of their peers for exemplary IAQ programs, implementation of the *IAQ TFS* Kit, dedication to the health of students and staff, and strategic communication of IAQ issues.

### Winners Making Headlines

Following the announcement that they were receiving an award from EPA, many recipients recognized during the Awards Ceremony received coverage in local, state, or national media:

Adams Twelve Five Star Schools, located in Thornton, Colorado, received coverage of their experience with IAQ in the Denver Post, Northglenn/Thornton Sentinels (a regional newspaper), on the American Lung Association of Colorado Web site, and the Colorado Department of Health Web site.

Blue Valley School District #229, located in Overland Park, Kansas,

- [Media Strategies and Publicizing IAQ TFS Successes](#)
- [Basics of Mold in Schools](#)
- [Financing Indoor Air Quality Solutions](#)

### In the Spotlight: Celebrating the *IAQ TFS* Kit and Program

During the Plenary Session on Monday morning (October 27), Elissa Feldman, former Associate Director, and Tracy Enger, Program Analyst, both with EPA's Indoor Environments Division in Washington, DC, highlighted key stages in the evolution of the *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS)* Kit and Program from its introduction in 1995 to the present. Ms. Feldman and Ms. Enger expressed great enthusiasm for *IAQ TFS* implementation in schools across the country and the world. The "Meet and Greet" event held for all Symposium attendees on Sunday evening provided an opportunity for newcomers and veterans of the program to network and talk about their experiences with IAQ in schools. During the presentation, several casual pictures taken of groups during the "Meet and Greet" were spotlighted, noting that the future of the *IAQ TFS* Program and continued success in improving indoor air quality and the environment in school facilities depends on attendees. Tracy and Elissa shared statistics on the program. In 1995, 55 Kits were sent to



schools across the country, and in 2003, the count to date is 3,882 Kits; 2002 ranks highest with 5,923 Kits distributed during the year. This portion of the presentation highlighted the growth in Kit distribution over the years. To date, more than 70,000 *IAQ TFS* Action Kits have been distributed nationally.

They also spotlighted the resources EPA has developed to supplement the *IAQ TFS* Kit on topics such as asthma, communications strategies, and building inspections. In closing, they emphasized that possibilities are endless with continued support from staff, community stakeholders, and health and education associations working with schools and school districts to implement the *IAQ TFS* Kit and Program.

### IAQ TFS Excellence Awards

The *IAQ TFS* Excellence Award is EPA's highest level of recognition awarded to schools and school districts with exemplary IAQ programs. Below is a complete listing of award winners. Click on each school to learn more about their specific accomplishments.



- [Adams Twelve Five Star Schools, Thornton, CO](#)
- [Bellingham School District # 501, Bellingham, WA](#)
- [Blount County School System, Maryville, TN](#)
- [Blue Valley Unified School District # 229, Overland Park, KS](#)
- [Cle Elum-Roslyn School District, Cle Elum, WA](#)
- [Clovis Unified School District, Clovis, CA](#)
- [Harford County Public Schools, Bel Air, MD](#)
- [Millcreek Township School District, Erie, PA](#)
- [Perkins Local Schools, Sandusky, OH](#)
- [Radnor Township School District, Wayne, PA](#)
- [Rochester Public Schools, Rochester, MN](#)

received coverage in the Overland Park daily newspaper, and their story was highlighted on a cable access television program.

Millcreek Township School District, located in Erie, Pennsylvania, was highlighted in a story aired on the Erie Times News, Channel 24 (an ABC affiliate).

Perkins Local Schools, located in Sandusky, Ohio, received coverage in several regional newspapers, including the Sandusky Register, Toledo Blade, and the Loraine Journal.

West Carrollton City School District, located in West Carrollton, Ohio, received coverage in an article published by the Dayton Daily News and Miamisburg West Carrollton News. West Carrollton was also highlighted in news stories aired on several television stations, including Channel 22 (an NBC affiliate), Channel 2 (an ABC affiliate), Channel 7 (a CBS affiliate), an on-air cable show, "School Talk," and several local radio stations.

The Applied Environmental Science Working Group of Mt. Whitney High School, located in Visalia, California, received local press coverage in the Fresno Bee and City View newspapers.

[Salt Lake City School District, Salt Lake City, UT](#)  
[The School District of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, FL](#)  
[Waterford Public Schools, Waterford, CT](#)  
[Westborough Public Schools, Westborough, MA](#)  
[West Carrollton City School District, West Carrollton, OH](#)

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### Special Achievement Awards



The *IAQ TFS* Special Achievement Award is reserved for individuals who have played an integral role in assisting their communities and schools with implementation of the *IAQ TFS* Kit and Program. Below are descriptions of the 2003 Special Achievement honorees:

[Greg Lookabaugh, Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, TX](#)

[John Gayetsky, Ohio Department of Health, Columbus, OH](#)

[Mathew Toy, Northgate High School/Mt. Diablo Unified School District – Environmentally Concerned Kids Club, Walnut Creek, CA](#)

[Emily Fulmer, Mt. Whitney High School / Visalia Unified School District – Applied Environmental Science Working Group, Visalia, CA](#)

[Barbara Johnson, AANMA Outreach Service Coordinator, Columbus, OH](#)  
[Clatie Campbell, AANMA Outreach Service Coordinator, Bordentown, NJ](#)

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### Washington, DC News Coverage of the *IAQ TFS* Kit

On Monday, October 27, Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director for EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, appeared on an early morning news story on the Washington, DC affiliate of Fox News. Ms. Cotsworth displayed the contents of the *IAQ TFS* Kit and discussed with a Fox News reporter the importance of improving indoor air quality in school environments for the health and safety of our nation's students and school teachers. This coverage helped increase public awareness of indoor air quality issues in schools.

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### Apply for a **2004** *IAQ TFS* Award

Do you feel you have a stellar IAQ management program in your school? Are you just beginning an IAQ program and want to recognize the initial strides you are taking? If so, please apply for one of EPA's prestigious *IAQ TFS* awards. EPA is honored to present the 2004 *IAQ*



*TFS* Awards Program that will recognize schools and school districts demonstrating a strong commitment to improving children's health and indoor air quality.

Typical award recipients are those schools and school districts that assume a leadership role, heighten overall public awareness of IAQ issues, and encourage public support for programs aimed at improving children's health in our nation's schools. With three tiers of awards (Great Start, Leadership, and Excellence awards), EPA recognizes schools and districts at various stages of implementing proactive IAQ management programs. This system allows schools to receive recognition at each step as they proceed with implementing successful IAQ programs. Visit [EPA's \*IAQ TFS\* Awards Program Web site](#) to download an application form, review application deadlines, and learn more about the three tiers of the *IAQ TFS* Awards Program.

If you have further questions about the *IAQ TFS* Program or would like to submit story ideas for future Bulletins, please contact [Michele Guarneiri](#).